



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Raised Bill No. 1326

LCO No. 4636

04636_____KID

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT CONCERNING OVERSIGHT OF RIVERVIEW HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 46a-13l of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

3 (a) The Child Advocate shall:

4 (1) Evaluate the delivery of services to children by state agencies
5 and those entities that provide services to children through funds
6 provided by the state;

7 (2) Review periodically the procedures established by any state
8 agency providing services to children to carry out the provisions of
9 sections 46a-13k to 46a-13q, inclusive, with a view toward the rights of
10 the children and recommend revisions to such procedures;

11 (3) Review complaints of persons concerning the actions of any state
12 or municipal agency providing services to children and of any entity
13 that provides services to children through funds provided by the state,
14 make appropriate referrals and investigate those where the Child

15 Advocate determines that a child or family may be in need of
16 assistance from the Child Advocate or that a systemic issue in the
17 state's provision of services to children is raised by the complaint;

18 (4) Pursuant to an investigation, provide assistance to a child or
19 family who the Child Advocate determines is in need of such
20 assistance including, but not limited to, advocating with an agency,
21 provider or others on behalf of the best interests of the child;

22 (5) Periodically review the facilities and procedures of any and all
23 institutions or residences, public or private, where a juvenile has been
24 placed by any agency or department;

25 (6) Recommend changes in state policies concerning children
26 including changes in the system of providing juvenile justice, child
27 care, foster care and treatment;

28 (7) Take all possible action including, but not limited to, conducting
29 programs of public education, undertaking legislative advocacy and
30 making proposals for systemic reform and formal legal action, in order
31 to secure and ensure the legal, civil and special rights of children who
32 reside in this state;

33 (8) Provide training and technical assistance to attorneys
34 representing children and guardians ad litem appointed by the
35 Superior Court;

36 (9) Periodically review the number of special needs children in any
37 foster care or permanent care facility and recommend changes in the
38 policies and procedures for the placement of such children;

39 (10) Serve or designate a person to serve as a member of the child
40 fatality review panel established in subsection (b) of this section; [and]

41 (11) Oversee the Riverview Hospital for Children and Youth in
42 accordance with subsection (h) of this section; and

43 [(11)] (12) Take appropriate steps to advise the public of the services
44 of the Office of the Child Advocate, the purpose of the office and
45 procedures to contact the office.

46 (b) There is established a child fatality review panel composed of
47 thirteen permanent members as follows: The Child Advocate, or a
48 designee; the Commissioners of Children and Families, Public Health
49 and Public Safety, or their designees; the Chief Medical Examiner, or a
50 designee; the Chief State's Attorney, or a designee; a pediatrician,
51 appointed by the Governor; a representative of law enforcement,
52 appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate; an attorney,
53 appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; a social work
54 professional, appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; a
55 representative of a community service group appointed by the speaker
56 of the House of Representatives; a psychologist, appointed by the
57 majority leader of the House of Representatives; and an injury
58 prevention representative, appointed by the minority leader of the
59 House of Representatives. A majority of the panel may select not more
60 than three additional temporary members with particular expertise or
61 interest to serve on the panel. Such temporary members shall have the
62 same duties and powers as the permanent members of the panel. The
63 chairperson shall be elected from among the panel's permanent
64 members. The panel shall, to the greatest extent possible, reflect the
65 ethnic, cultural and geographic diversity of the state.

66 (c) The panel shall review the circumstances of the death of a child
67 placed in out-of-home care or whose death was due to unexpected or
68 unexplained causes to facilitate development of prevention strategies
69 to address identified trends and patterns of risk and to improve
70 coordination of services for children and families in the state. Members
71 of the panel shall not be compensated for their services, but may be
72 reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of
73 their duties.

74 (d) On or before January 1, 2000, and annually thereafter, the panel

75 shall issue an annual report which shall include its findings and
76 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on its
77 review of child fatalities for the preceding year.

78 (e) Upon request of two-thirds of the members of the panel and
79 within available appropriations, the Governor, the General Assembly
80 or at the Child Advocate's discretion, the Child Advocate shall conduct
81 an in-depth investigation and review and issue a report with
82 recommendations on the death or critical incident of a child. The
83 report shall be submitted to the Governor, the General Assembly and
84 the commissioner of any state agency cited in the report and shall be
85 made available to the general public.

86 (f) The Chief Medical Examiner shall provide timely notice to the
87 Child Advocate and to the chairperson of the child fatality review
88 panel of the death of any child that is to be investigated pursuant to
89 section 19a-406.

90 (g) Any agency having responsibility for the custody or care of
91 children shall provide timely notice to the Child Advocate and the
92 chairperson of the child fatality review panel of the death of a child or
93 a critical incident involving a child in its custody or care.

94 (h) The Child Advocate shall provide oversight of Riverview
95 Hospital for Children and Youth and shall (1) participate in the
96 coordination and implementation of any plan relating to the
97 reorganization of programs, management and infrastructure of the
98 facility; (2) make recommendations to the Commissioner of Children
99 and Families and the managerial and supervisory staff of the facility
100 on the implementation process of any such plan; and (3) report
101 semiannually to the select committee of the General Assembly having
102 cognizance of matters relating to children on his or her activities, in
103 accordance with section 11-4a.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	46a-13 <i>l</i>
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Statement of Purpose:

To designate a monitor for Riverview Hospital for Children and Youth.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]